

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 06601 031134Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: EFND, EEC, CIEC

SUBJECT: EC PREPARES FOR CIEC MEETINGS--NO FIRMS POSITIONS
REACHED

REF: (A) PARIS 17863, (B) EC BRUSSELS 6461, (C) STATE 160431

1. SUMMARY: SEVERAL EC WORKING PARTIES AND THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) HAVE HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS TO PREPARE FOR THE JULY CIEC MEETINGS. THE MEMBER STATES CONTINUE TO DIFFER ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND CONSEQUENTLY WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO TAKE A JOINT POSITION FOR THE OECD PREPARATORY WORKING PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. CIEC WORK PROGRAM: COMMISSION AND PERMDEL OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE COREPER ON JULY 1 AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE WORK PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CIEC COMMISSIONS (REFTEL A). THE MEMBER STATES CONSIDERED THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THE FINANCE COMMISSION WORK PROGRAM (PARA. 3, REFTEL B), BUT DECIDED TO ADHERE TO THE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM. COREPER REACHED NO DECISION ON A SUGGESTED DATE FOR THE CIEC MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE COMMISSION THOUGHT
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 06601 031134Z

THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TIME AFTER THE NOVEMBER CIEC

COMMISSION MEETINGS TO SCHEDULE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING BEFORE THE DECEMBER OPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE DUTCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TOLD AMBASSADOR HINTON THAT HE CONSIDERED IT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE MINISTERIAL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE OPEC MEETING. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT SOME MEMBER STATES HAVE SUGGESTED ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING TO PREPARE FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE ARGUMENT IS THAT FURTHER COORDINATION WILL BE NECESSARY TO INSURE A SUCCESSFUL MINISTERIAL. HOWEVER, THE DUTCH BELIEVE THAT PREPARATION FOR ANOTHER LAYER OF MEETINGS WILL MERELY SLOW UP THE PROCESS OF REACHING SOLID SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS.

3. RAW MATERIALS: COREPER REACHED NO DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE RAW MATERIALS COMMISSION. SOME MEMBER STATES FAVORED CARRYING ON COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIFIC COMMODITIES BOTH WITHIN THE UNCTAD AND THE CIEC, WHILE OTHERS PREFERRED CONCENTRATING PRIMARILY IN UNCTAD. THE COMMISSION WILL TAKE UP A PROPOSED OVERALL POSITION PAPER ON RAW MATERIAL ISSUES ON JULY 7, WHICH WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE DISCUSSED IN COREPER. AS A RESULT, COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THE EC WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO TAKE DEFINITIVE POSITIONS ON THE MAIN ISSUES AT THE JULY 7 OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES MEETING.

4. DEBT: THE EC COMMISSION HAS SUBMITTED A PAPER TO COREPER AS A BASIS FOR POST-NAIROBI DISCUSSION OF DEBT. THE PAPER (POUCHED TO EUR/RPE: CASEY AND EB/IFD: WINDER) IS DESCRIBED BY COMMISSION CONTACTS AS A PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT AND IS BASED ON THE POSITION PUT FORWARD IN THE CLOSING STAGES IN NAIROBI. WE UNDERSTAND THE COMMISSION (AND MOTS MEMBER STATES) WANT TO USE THAT POSITION AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE DEBT ISSUE IN THE SECOND HALF OF CIEC. THERE IS SOME HESITATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES ON VARIOUS ELEMENTS, HOWEVER, ESPECIALLY AS THEY RELATE TO THE UNCTAD IV DEBT RESOLUTION. THE CENTRAL QUESTION CONCERNS THE ORIENTATION OF FUTURE WORK BETWEEN THE "CONSORTIA-CONSULTATIVE GROUP" APPROACH AND THE "CREDITOR CLUB" APPROACH.

5. OUR CONTACTS NOTED THE FAVORABLE IMPACT OF THE U.S. POSITION FOR THE JULY 8-9 OECD TEMPORARY WORKING PARTY (TWP) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 06601 031134Z

(REF. C) AND THEY BELIEVE THAT THE EC AND U.S. POSITIONS ARE NOW MUCH CLOSER, PERMITTING A JOINT POSITION TO BE WORKED OUT IN WHICH BOTH OF THE ABOVE "APPROACHES" CAN BE EXPLORED. THE COMMISSION IS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED THAT THE U.S. POSITION WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES (READ GERMANY) TO GO ALONG WITH A JOINT EC POSITION ALONG THE LINES OF OUR OWN. COREPER IS TO DISCUSS THE COMMISSION'S PAPER FURTHER JULY 7 AND 8. TEXT OF THE COMMISSION PAPER FOLLOWS (REFTEL.).

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